



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Park Commission

Meeting Wednesday, December 9, 2015

6:30 Regular Meeting
Carver County Public Works
11360 Hwy 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call and Holiday Treats and Snacks (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the November 4, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:30 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (6:31 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (6:32 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:33 p.m.)
- 6) Staff Reports (6:45 p.m.)
 - a. Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Planning Work
 - b. 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Information
 - c. 2015 Year Review and Update
- 7) Commission Member Reports (8:00 p.m.)
- 8) Set Next Meeting Date (8:10p.m.) – Proposed Date January 13, 2016
- 9) Adjourn Meeting (8:15 p.m.)

Please note if a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting, please call the Park Office at 466 – 5250.

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Draft
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2015

Members Present: Carroll Aasen, Tom Hermann, Jim Boettcher, Jim Manders, Gerald Bruner, Ron Trick, Curt Kobilarcsik

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Connie Keller, Jessica Fenn

Call to Order: Manders, called the meeting to order at **(6:27p.m.)**

Approval of Minutes: **(6:27p.m.)**
Bruner motioned to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2015 regular meeting minutes Trick seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: **(6:28p.m.)**
Fee Schedule and Revenue Report added to agenda

Approval of Agenda: **(6:28p.m.)**
Bruner motioned to approve meeting agenda
Aasen seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: **(6:28p.m.)**

Not present

Open to the Public: **(6:28p.m.)**
None Present

Staff Reports: **(6:29 p.m.)**

A. Recreation Program Services Presentation

Staff reintroduced the parks programmer Jessica Fenn and also presented to Park Commission a Power Point on parks System Usage and Recreation Program Services.

Points covered in the Power Point are System Changes & Improvements, System Usage & Growth, Publicly Requested Recreation Activities, County offered recreation services (2015 in review), Risk, Legal & County Consideration.

Staff reviewed the improvements to the parks and trails over the last few years and also reviewed the system usage and growth over the last five years.

Staff stated that park counts usage doubled from 2013 to 2014 a large part due to the addition of the SW Regional Trails in Chaska and Victoria. Staff stated that they did contact the Metropolitan Council to make sure that the counts were correct; they stated that they were confident that the numbers were correct.

Higher numbers means more operation and maintenance funds from the Metropolitan Council.

Staff shared special event attendance numbers from the last three years, special events consist of scouting events, summer holidays, endurance & fitness events, fundraising events, and special interest events. Staff shared what groups we have had in the park for all these events.

Staff shared with Park Commission recreation services that the parks department offered this past summer along with pictures. Staff also shared what programs that will be offered this winter and next spring along with volunteer efforts.

Staff also shared numbers of participants that we reached through the recreation services, whether through youth camps, partnerships, private groups, contracted recreation services, special events and volunteers. Staff shared what agencies that the parks is partnering with and contracted groups that have been working with the parks.

Staff shared what current risk management items that they are using now and items that will need to be improved on going forward. Things that are being worked on, is developing a JPA to use with our agency partnerships which is being requested by County Risk and Legal Departments. Staff explained the purpose of the JPA with the partnerships.

Staff stated that risk management wanted waivers, staff properly trained, and that equipment is suitable. Staff commented they have now developed a risk assessment form that is filled out before each program; the assessment form will be used for programs like ice fishing making sure ice is safe, or paddleboard make conditions are safe to run programs.

Staff shared the greater risk activities that we currently offer – hayrides, archery, sledding, atlatl throwing, etc...

Staff stated that there is a desire to offer new recreational activities with an association with businesses that serve alcohol, there is a social appeal for some groups for an event with alcohol, stating that it doesn't mean staff will be serving alcohol, but maybe participating with a local establishment after an event. Other risk considerations are recreation on ice, or group rental of the caretaker house. Staff is trying to plan ahead and to make us more competitive with other agencies.

Staff and Park Commission members had a lengthy discussion on what type of events and programs are requesting alcohol and who is at risk. Staff referenced different events being held by other agencies or groups that might request it in our own parks. Members expressed an array of opinions ranging from not supporting to supporting programs with a connection to businesses which serve alcohol.

Staff asked the Park Commission members if they had any issues or concerns with ice activities; Aasen stated that as long as participants sign the waiver and we make the attempt to make sure things are safe doesn't see an issue.

Staff asked if there were any concerns about any of the permitted activities that we are currently doing.

Staff stated they plan on taking this all with Park Commission comments to the Board for review and also get permissions to take things to the division director for approvals when things come up at the last minute.

Questions or Comments:

Hermann stated that the County Road 10 project looked very nice.

Trick asked about the trail out of Silver Lake; Staff stated it could be the Luce Line trail.

Manders asked on the SW Trail counts, do we know what segments those numbers comes from; staff stated that yes we do have specific areas and times that are set by Metropolitan Council.

Bruner asked if the counts have doubled in other park agencies; Staff stated park attendance is higher system wide in 2014.

Manders asked about the 2016 Rider Cup golf tournament; Staff stated that in past we have been asked about camping at Lake Minnewashta Park but no inquires yet.

Manders asked if we did demographics on the participants in our activities; staff stated we are not keeping track, but we are aware of who is attending the programs.

Hermann asked if the parents signed waivers for the recreation activities; Staff stated yes or 18 to participate.

Bruner asked were the information is coming from to have alcohol; Staff stated that is coming from calls from event coordinators and just large events taking place now and that are growing in popularity.

No other Questions or Comments

B. Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Amendment

i. Public Participation Report

Staff reviewed the community engagement and overview summary on the public participation events held in communities close to Lake Waconia Regional Park, some of the common themes are swimming, bigger playground, non-motorized water recreation, better trails; items wanted on Coney Island are camping, picnicking, trails, historical interpretation. Staff commented that one of the stronger wanted activities was fishing.

Staff stated that we would be more interviewing additional stakeholder groups in the next few months, groups like Parkside Church, Crown College, Snowmobile Club, School District, etc...

ii. Coney Island Acquisition

Staff stated that we have submitted the master plan amendment which would incorporate Coney Island into the master plan that should be going forward on November 10th. Staff indicated that the acquisition of the island may be delayed because the funding source has raised some questions, so we are working with the Metropolitan Council and the LCCMR groups. Staff will be meeting with property owner to figure out options.

Questions or Comments

Manders asked what type of outhouse service will be out at the island; Staff stated that would be something we would have to work through, stating that we have contacted the City of Orono to see what they do on Big Island on Lake Minnetonka.

Aasen stated that some people don't go to the parks because of the fee to get in, and was wondering what it would take to eliminate the gate fee. Staff stated it will be something to consider in the future planning, with maybe a county survey. Staff also shared a revenue report with dollars collected for entrance fees camping and shelter fees. Conversation was had on fees and entrance fees.

No other Questions or Comments

C. Sale of Land to DNR

The Metropolitan Council has approved the sale of land to the DNR contingent on the consent of the LCCMR to agree to sale, we should appear before them in December with request to consent to the removal of covenants. Staff stated they did send a letter to Metropolitan Council which lays out the details for the request and funding.

Staff explained the funding and how the county will be reimbursed. Staff stated that the DNR has always been part of the plan for the access on that property, due to the fact that the DNR would be able to develop the land faster than the County might be able to.

No Question or Comments

D. MN River Bluffs Regional Trail

Staffed showed photos of the most current projects, the County Road 10 trail connection to the Dakota Rail Trail, staff also shared pictures of the striping on the Dakota Rail, staff stated that there were some issues with the striping but have been fixed.

Work on the Pile driving for the bridge for the MN River Bluffs trail in Carver is completed staff shared photos of working being done.

Staff also shared the most current pictures of Coney Island; staff was able to see more of the structures on the island.

Questions or Comments

Bruner asked if you could park along County Rd 10, staff stated no, but in the future we will have a parking lot with a trail head at that location hopefully this is something we can accomplish next year, if funds are available.

Manders asked if County Rd 10 was striped and staff stated yes it is.

No other Questions or Comments

E. Aquatic Invasive Species 2015 Update

Staff shared the press release with the Park Commission on the latest news that more zebra mussels have been found on Christmas Lake. Staff also stated that all inspection services have concluded for the season.

Questions or Comments

Aasen shared were they found the additional zebra mussels on Christmas Lake.

Trick asked if Christmas Lake is in Carver County; Staff stated that a portion of the lake is in Carver County the majority of it is in Hennepin County.

Trick asked if they have hired someone to run the program next year; Staff stated that they are in the process.

No other Questions or Comments

F. Park Fees

Staff shared the fee structure for 2016 explaining the increases for some of the services we provide. New fees will go to County Board in December for implantation of new fee's starting in January.

Questions or Comments

Manders asked if we opened the park up with no entrance fees we would still charge fees for camping, ball fields, and special use fees. Staff stated yes.

Aasen stated that some of these bigger events with alcohol we should have a larger special use fee for those events; staff stated that some counties do charge for these special use permits.

No other Questions or Comments

Commission Member Reports: (8:17 p.m.)

Bruner stated that he participated in the Chili-cook off and had a great time, would be glad to do it again.

Manders asked if the chili-cook off would be in any of the other parks; Staff stated no.

Aasen showed a picture of the new threat to the lakes, Starry Stonewort he also stated that efforts are in the works to try and figure out how it made its way to Minnesota.

Staff stated that they will come back in December with final reports for AIS, after that you will need to go to the Water Environment Natural Resource Committee meetings for future updates.

Next Meeting Date: (8:21 p.m.)

Next meeting will be on December 9, 2015 at 6:30p.m. Will be held at the Public Works Building in Cologne
Discussion was had a tour of winter areas in January to see winter operations.
December we will have potluck of snacks to share.

Adjourn Meeting: (8:26 p.m.)

All motioned to adjourn the meeting
All seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7 to 0.